

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

*6-28-06*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Jefferson Park**

other names/site number **Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park (preferred)/Jefferson Park #2/Park #94**

**2. Location**

street & number **4822 North Long Avenue** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Chicago** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Cook** code **031** zip code **60630**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally; \_\_\_\_\_ statewide;  locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*William L. Wheeler* *SHP*  
Signature of certifying official

*6-28-06*  
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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#### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property FIX  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  5  </u>	structures
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  7  </u>	<u>  6  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District**

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park**  
Name of Property

**Cook County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**LANDSCAPE/ park**  
**RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation**  
**RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility**  
**OTHER/ field house**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**LANDSCAPE/ park**  
**RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation**  
**RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility**  
**OTHER/ field house**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Georgian Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation    **Concrete**

Roof            **Asphalt**

Walls          **Brick**

other          **Vegetation**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**See continuation sheets**

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park**  
Name of Property

**Cook County, Illinois**  
County and State

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Entertainment/ Recreation**

**Social History**

**Architecture**

Period of Significance **1921 to 1956** Significant Dates **1921, 1930**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Hatzfeld, Clarence, architect**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**See continuation Sheets**

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park**  
Name of Property

**Cook County, Illinois**  
County and State

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository **Chicago Park District**

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **7.16 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	16 436598	4646696	3 16 436791	4646473
2	16 436832	4646610	4 16 436603	4646498

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**See continuation sheets**

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**See continuation sheets**

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park**  
Name of Property

**Cook County, Illinois**  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title     Julia S. Bachrach and Janis Taylor  
organization   Chicago Park District             date   November 16, 2005  
street & number 541 N. Fairbanks Ave.             telephone   (312) 742-4698  
city or town   Chicago                             state       IL             zip code   60611

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:  
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name   Timothy J. Mitchell, General Supt. and CEO, Chicago Park District  
street & number     541 N. Fairbanks                             telephone  
city or town   Chicago                             state       IL             zip code   60611

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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**Narrative Description**

Originally known as Jefferson Park, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park is a 7.16 acre site located at 4800 north and 5400 west in Chicago. The site was created by the Jefferson Park District, one of 22 park commissions consolidated into the Chicago Park District in 1934. The Jefferson Park District formed in 1920 to provide neighborhood parks for its rapidly developing Northwest side community. The fledgling park district began to purchase land for its initial park the next year. The park commissioners moved an Italianate style residence, known as the Esdohr house onto the newly acquired land, providing Jefferson Park's original field house. Land acquisition continued through 1929, by which time much of the park had been landscaped. In 1930, the park district constructed a new field house, tool house, athletic fields, and made additional landscape improvements. Clarence Hatzfeld, a prominent Chicago architect designed the improvements to the expanded park.

The park's name is derived from that of its surrounding community. (When this site first opened to the public in 1921, there was an earlier Jefferson Park located on the West side of Chicago. Because of this, the site was long known as Jefferson Park #2.) The surrounding Northwest side neighborhood is predominantly composed of brick single family homes and two- to four-flats. Today, there is also a new wave of condominiums being built. It is a middle-class neighborhood composed mostly of white residents, many of whom are of Polish descent. For over thirty years, the Copernicus Foundation, located only a few blocks from the park, has served as the Polish Cultural Center of Chicago, providing educational programs and the annual Taste of Polonia festival. (The Chicago Park District renamed the site Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park in 1999 to avoid confusion— although the original Jefferson Park is now known as Skinner Park, the City of Chicago created and named a third Jefferson Park in the early 1950s.)

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park consists of thirteen resources: seven contributing and six non-contributing. The contributing resources include three buildings, two structures; one site consisting of landscape, playfield and pathways, and one objects— one war memorial plaque and one planter. Although the Esdohr House was moved, it is still deemed as a contributing resource because it was moved during the property's period of significance for reasons relating to the park's historic context.

Over the years, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park has continuously adapted to the frequently changing needs of the surrounding community while retaining a high level of integrity. The property retains a great deal of fabric dating from its period of significance, and is primarily composed of contributing features. In order to clearly describe the park and show that it retains sufficient integrity to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, four corresponding plans are submitted as part of this nomination: a Sketch of Long Avenue between Higgins and Lawrence [A], a 1930 Water Supply Piping Plan by Clarence Hatzfeld [B], a 1936 Topographical Survey [C], and a 1984 Chicago Park District Plot Plan [D].

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park is bounded on the north by Higgins Avenue, on the south by Lawrence Avenue, on the east by Long Avenue and the west by Linder Avenue. Equipped with two baseball fields, one combination football/soccer field, three tennis courts, one combination volleyball and basketball court, one playground, one spray pool and a full outdoor swimming pool with dressing facility, the seven-acre park offers plenty of outdoor recreation.

The Sketch of Long Avenue between Higgins and Lawrence [A] documents the original location of the Esdohr House [1]. This sketch was likely prepared in 1920 or 1921. It shows two frame houses, two barns and one brick house that were on the site that would become the original park. Long Avenue was extended to the northeast through this site to provide the new park's northern boundary. The brick house shown in this plan [A] was the Esdohr House. In late 1921, the Esdohr House was moved to the southeast fronting on the newly extended Long Avenue. The building served as the park's first field house, having opened to the public in early 1922.

The Esdohr House [1] dates to the mid 1880s. It is a brick Italianate style structure. (Although the exact date is unknown, it is clear that this is one of the oldest extant structures in the Jefferson Park community.) The building is rectangular in plan and has a porch that extends and wraps around two sides of the building. The house is one-and-a-half stories, with a small one story wing at its south façade. It has a gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The primary façade faces Long Avenue, placed symmetrically with the façade at the long side of the gabled roof. Two Doric style columns flank the vestibule at the main entrance to the house. The building has long rectangular double hung windows. Many of them have limestone lintels and sills. Unfortunately, years ago, the Chicago Park District painted the entire structure a reddish brown color, including the limestone elements. Although the limestone details are now somewhat obscured, there is decorative brickwork at the gable end on the north façade that can be clearly seen.

In 1930, most of the remainder of the park was developed. The 1930 Water Supply Piping Plan prepared by architect Clarence Hatzfeld [B] features an octagonal sandbox, a rectangular wading pool, and horseshoe courts. All of these features were located just west of the Esdohr House and were likely part of the original design. In the mid 1960s the original wading pool was removed. In 1988, a soft surface playground was installed [2] at the site of the original wading pool.

As depicted on the 1936 Topographical Survey [C], the original horseshoe courts were replaced in the 1930s by a volleyball court and four paved tennis courts [3], located at the southeast corner of the park. The tennis courts were resurfaced in 1984 and the western-most tennis court was converted into a combination volleyball and basketball court [4]. Despite this change, the tennis courts have remained in the same location and configuration for well over sixty years.

The athletic field [5] is located west of the tennis courts at the southwest corner of the park. The athletic field is oriented on a diagonal axis and includes a backstop and players benches and has been in this location and configuration since 1930 or earlier.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

The Tool House [6] is located at the north end of the ball field. This is a 1930 one story brick building composed of wire cut brick in variegated shades of orange, red, and brown. The Tool House is "L" shaped in plan with a cross gabled roof. At the gabled ends there are overhanging eaves with simple decorative brackets. Today, the Tool House houses maintenance vehicles and equipment. The building's west façade has several garage door openings. Chain link fencing surrounds the service area adjacent to the Tool House.

As part of the 1930 design, Jefferson Park featured three formal entries along Higgins Avenue. The asphalt pathways [7] divide the passive mature landscape into five informal areas. The northwest corner of the park features landscaped areas planted with irregularly spaced mature trees forming groves and allées along the central asphalt path. The canopies of the trees provide a tranquil shaded area and is the more restful and passive side of this park. Although vegetation is relatively sparse now, the basic spatial qualities of the historic landscape remain today.

A 1929 survey<sup>1</sup> shows pathways perpendicular to Long Avenue on either side of the Esdohr House leading to the main pathways of the park. These pathways are still in place today. Some minor changes have been made to the pathways near the pool house, but overall the pathways have remained the same since the original construction of the park. In May of 1998, as part of a district-wide program, metal picket fence [8] was installed around the exterior of the park. Although this is not an historic feature, it is relatively low, and does not block views into the park.

The original development of the park included a playground area adjacent to and east of the Tool House [B]. The first playground, which had separate boys and girls areas, was removed in 1965, as part of the ball field expansion. In 1977, the Chicago Park District installed an outdoor swimming pool [9] and a pool building [10] near the location of the original playground. The Park District repaired and improved the pool in 1992. The pool building is a non-contributing structure. It is a one story building composed of brown brick with a flat roof with chamfered parapets. The swimming pool complex is enclosed with fencing matching the outer park fence.

A spray pool [11] lies just north of the field house in the northeast side of the park. The spray pool was installed in the mid 1960s, after the removal of the wading pool. The spray pool is also a non-contributing feature. It is a circular element composed of concrete.

The stately Georgian Revival style field house [12] was designed by Clarence Hatzfeld, architect of many field houses in Chicago. Constructed in 1930, Jefferson Park's field house is placed on a diagonal axis at the northeast corner of the park. The field house is a two-story structure, and includes a gymnasium, assembly hall (with stage), eight clubrooms, a kitchen and offices. The building is composed of wire cut brick in variegated shades of orange, red, and brown. (It matches the Tool House, but the field house has been cleaned more recently.) It is T-shaped in plan with intersecting hipped roofs. The roofs have overhanging eaves with exposed rafters.

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<sup>1</sup> Plat of Survey for Jefferson Park District, Mr. Clarence Hatzfeld, Architect prepared by Warton Planter, Illinois Registered Land Surveyor, Chicago, Sept. 1929.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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The front entrance is symmetrically placed with the center of the primary façade fronting the northeast corner of the park. Several steps lead up to double doors and transom lights which are flanked by fluted limestone pilasters. Above the pilasters, doors, and transom lights is a limestone broken pediment with scrolls and a center finial. Beneath the scrolled pediment is a green sign reading "Jefferson Park."

The primary façade of the field house [12] is composed of three bays. The two outer bays have projecting gables that intersect the ends of the long side of the hipped roof. These outer bays are identical. They each have a blind arch extending from a limestone stringcourse approximately shoulder height to top of the arch beneath the gable ends. Beneath the stringcourse there are bands of decorative brickwork. At the upper portion of the blind arches, there are three limestone keystones piercing the brickwork that surrounds the arch—one at the top and one symmetrically placed on each of the sides. Within the blind arch a double hung window is at the upper level and three narrow rectangular double hung windows are at the lower window. Brickwork divides these three windows. Wrought ironwork extends from the lower portion of these windows. Below them the limestone stringcourse rests on four decorative brackets.

The center bay is composed of three arches also extending up from the stringcourse. At the second story level, each of the arches contains a window with operable openings in the center and fixed panes on the two sides. The brickwork surrounding the windows echoes the blind arches at the outer ends with three limestone keystones symmetrically placed around the arches. Below the two outer arched windows are a series of 3 double hung windows. Below the center arch is the elegant Georgian style doorway.

The field house features attractive interior details such as terrazzo floors, decorative brackets in the hallway, and exposed trusses and original lighting fixtures in the auditorium. In addition, Jefferson Park has a collection of noteworthy paintings that are currently being conserved. (The Chicago Conservation Center has been contracted by the Chicago Park District for this work.) These include a series of four portraits of which some or all were produced in 1934. These oil paintings are of historical figures: Christopher Columbus, Thomas Jefferson, and John Marshall. (the fourth figure cannot be identified). The Columbus painting depicts the famous explorer sighting land. Signed L. Caracciolo, it was likely produced by Louis Caracciolo, an artist who specialized in painting Catholic churches.<sup>2</sup> It is uncertain as to whether he also produced any of the other portraits. An artist named Franconi, however, painted the portrait of the unknown figure.

In the far northeast corner of the park, at the front entrance of the field house, and at the intersection of Long and Higgins avenues, is a triangularly shaped lawn area. This area has 3 walkways leading to a planter [13]. This sunken planter is circular in plan and is surrounded by rusticated boulders. The planter, walkways, and triangular area date to Hatzfeld's 1930 improvements to Jefferson Park. A semi-circular driveway [14] is located between the triangular lawn and the field house. The drive was also part of the 1930 plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Obituary for Mrs. Dina Caracciolo, *Chicago Daily News*, November 9, 1960.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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During the 1930s, a cannon was installed in the triangular lawn. This World War I cannon was dedicated to the soldiers of the Jefferson Park District. The cannon was removed in the early 1940s, when the military needed to reuse World War I cannons for scrap metal for the war effort during World War II.<sup>3</sup> Today, only a very small bronze plaque remains. Located near the entryway of the field house, this World War I memorial plaque [15] was dedicated by the Altrui Club. Composed of bronze, the teardrop-shaped plaque is mounted directly into the sidewalk adjacent to the field house. It is uncertain as to whether this remains in its original location or if it was first installed near the cannon. (This plaque may have marked a second World War I memorial, such as a tree that may not have survived.)

Over the years, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park has adapted to contemporary needs and modern recreational trends. Despite this, the site retains strong integrity and clearly conveys its historic appearance. The Jefferson Park community area possesses an exceptionally small number of historic resources. The Chicago Historic Resources Survey, completed by the Chicago Commission on Landmarks in 1996, identified only 16 significant historic resources in Jefferson Park Community Area (#11). Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park was among the sixteen. Considering that it is a public property that has a rich history and several significant buildings, including the oldest extant house in the neighborhood, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park is one of the most important historic properties in the area.

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<sup>3</sup> In September of 1946, Fred G. Heuchling, Director of Public Information Service for the Chicago Park District contacted the supervisors of most of the parks that cannons to determine whether they were still in place. Mr. Emil Meier returned Mr. Heuchling's letter with a notation on the bottom explaining that Jefferson Park's cannon was removed at the time of the Salvage Drive. (This letter is in the archives of the Chicago Park District Special Collections.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park List of Historic Resources**

**Contributing Resources**

Esdohr House (1)  
Field House (12)  
Tool House (6)

**Buildings**

**Sites**

Landscape includes athletic field (5),  
walkways (7), and semi-circular  
roadway (14)

**Structures**

Tennis Courts (3)  
Sunken Planter (13)

**Objects**

World War I plaque (15)

**Non-contributing Resources**

Pool Building (10)

Soft Surface Playground (2)  
Swimming Pool (9)  
Basketball/ Volleyball Court (4)  
Spraypool (11)  
Ornamental Fencing (8)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

**Statement of Significance**

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park meets Criterion A and Criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is locally significant as part of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century movement to create breathing spaces with recreational facilities on Chicago's northwest side. In 1920, local residents formed the Jefferson Park District and began efforts to establish a park for their neighborhood. The commissioners moved an 1880s house that was located on property that would become the park and adapted it for use as the first field house. Land acquisition continued through 1929, the same year that the commissioners hired architect Clarence Hatzfeld to design a larger Revival style field house for the park. Improvements to the park and significant events in the property's social history continued after the consolidation of the Jefferson Park District into the Chicago Park District in 1934.

This property qualifies for listing on the National Register under the multiple documentation form. "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District." The property is significant during a period spanning from 1921, when the commissioners installed playground equipment and adapted the building on site as the first field house, to 1956, the current fifty-year cut-off date for the National Register of Historic Places. The property meets with the following areas of significance: Entertainment/ Recreation, Social History, and Architecture.

Located ten miles northwest of the loop, the Jefferson Park community has long been known as the "Gateway to Chicago." During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, hunters and fur traders passed through the area on Indian trails to and from trading posts. Fur trader John Kinzie Clark built a cabin in the area in the early 1830s, and other settlers soon followed suit. The following decade, the construction of the North West Plank Road (Milwaukee Avenue) and Lower Road (Elston Avenue) helped farmers transport their goods to Chicago and attracted additional residents. Early settlers named the area's first post office for President James Monroe; however, they soon learned that another community was known as Monroe, so they decided to honor President Thomas Jefferson instead.<sup>4</sup> The State formed Jefferson Township in 1850, and by 1855, the village had 50 buildings.<sup>5</sup> The Town of Jefferson was officially incorporated in 1872.

Among Jefferson Park's early settlers were two brothers named Henry and Herman Esdohr. Born to a farming family in Prussia in the early 1850s, the two boys journeyed alone together to the United States in 1866 when Henry was 14 years old and Herman only 12. Although the exact date when the brothers first settled in the area is unknown, in 1874, at the age of 22, Henry Esdohr purchased property in Jefferson Park and opened the area's first liquor store. Four years later, he married Kate Lauer from Wheeling, Illinois.<sup>6</sup> In 1884, Henry

<sup>4</sup> The Chicago Fact Book Consortium, Local Community Fact Book Chicago Metropolitan Area Based on the 1970 and 1980 Censuses. University of Illinois at Chicago, 1984, 29.

<sup>5</sup> Marilyn Elizabeth Perry, "Jefferson Park, *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History*, University of Chicago Press, 2004, 435.

<sup>6</sup> Frank Suerth, "Henry Esdohr," Jefferson Park Historical Society Newsletter, No 1, January, 2005, 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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took out a mortgage from his brother Herman for \$1,000.<sup>7</sup> He likely used the mortgage to build an Italianate style brick house at 5425 Higgins Avenue, and to make other improvements to the surrounding farm. The Esdohr Farm soon became known for having the best well in the area. It was "deep enough to catch the flow of water that runs underground all the way from Lake Superior."<sup>8</sup> Because this was the clearest water in the area, people throughout the community would line up to use the Esdohr's well.

In addition to the Esdohr family's importance to the neighborhood through providing fresh water, they played prominent roles in the community in numerous other ways. Henry served as the Knight Templar for the Masons (and his brother Herman was the Master of the Lodge).<sup>9</sup> Henry was appointed as the community's first postmaster and the treasurer of the school board (for one of the state's earliest public high schools). In 1881, he was elected as City Clerk of the Town of Jefferson.<sup>10</sup>

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Chicago grew rapidly not only by population but also by geography through the annexation of suburban communities at its boundaries. Residents of a small square-mile part of Jefferson Township (southeast of the existing Jefferson Park community area) petitioned for annexation in 1886. Three years later, the rest of Jefferson Park was annexed to Chicago along with Lake View, Lake and Hyde Park Townships. This 1889 initiative proved to be the city's largest single annexation with the addition of 125 square miles of property and 225,000 additional people. This made Chicago the nation's largest city by area and second in population at the time.<sup>11</sup>

By the early 1900s, there were numerous street railway lines that served the community. (The Chicago, St. Paul & Fond du Lac Railroad—now Chicago and North Western—had also provided service in the area for several decades.) The transportation opportunities and new city services helped attract new residents to the area. During this period, many first- and second-generation immigrants from Poland, Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, and Sweden settled here. As neighborhoods of frame cottages and brick bungalows emerged in the 1910s and 1920s, residents wanted to create parks for their community.

In older parts of Chicago, a park movement had begun in the 1850s and 1860s, when real estate speculators, civic boosters, physicians and others pushed for legislation that would allow for the development of an ambitious system of parks and boulevards to serve the growing city. As a result, the State of Illinois approved three separate acts of legislation in 1869 establishing the South, West, and Lincoln Park Commissions. "Although the three park commissions operated independently, the overall goal was to create a unified park and boulevard system that would encircle Chicago."<sup>12</sup> The original properties were: Jackson and

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<sup>7</sup> Village of Jefferson Land Records, block 47, lots 16, 17

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 2.

<sup>9</sup> Robert D. Dunn "Life Sketch of Herman Henry Esdohr," Jefferson Park Historical Society Newsletter, No 1, January, 2005, 6.

<sup>10</sup> Frank Suerth, "Henry Esdohr," Jefferson Park Historical Society Newsletter, No 1, January, 2005, 2.

<sup>11</sup> Louis P. Cain, "Annexation," *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History*, University of Chicago Press, 2004, 22.

<sup>12</sup> Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks*, Center for American Places, Harrisonburg, VA: 2001, 5.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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Washington Parks and the Midway Plaisance; Humboldt, Garfield, Douglas and Lincoln Parks; and the connecting boulevards.

By the late 1890s, it had become apparent that the existing parks could no longer satisfy the needs of Chicago's growing population. The city's tremendous industrial expansion had enticed vast numbers of European immigrants to settle here. By 1900, nearly 750,000 people, almost half of Chicago's population, resided in the central part of the city, more than a mile away from any park.<sup>13</sup> "Living and working conditions were intolerable, and in order to survive many immigrant families had to put their children to work. If children were lucky enough to have time off, there were few clean or safe places" in the tenement districts in which they could play.<sup>14</sup>

Chicago's first playground opened at Jane Addams' Hull House in 1893, and social reformers soon spurred a playground movement in efforts to create additional recreational open spaces in the tenement districts, especially for children. Playground advocates "believed that supervised play could improve the mental, moral, and physical well-being of children, and in the early twentieth century they expanded their calls into a broader recreation movement aimed at providing spaces for adult activities as well."<sup>15</sup> The earliest playgrounds were modest in size, appearance and apparatus.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the South Park Commission developed plans for an ambitious system of new parks to serve the residents of tenement districts within their jurisdiction. As explained in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, General Superintendent, J. Frank Foster conceived an innovative park prototype to provide breathing space as well as social, educational, and recreational amenities to the communities in need (FIII, p. 11). Foster believed that the new parks could function as neighborhood centers that would uplift and improve the lives of the residents of the overcrowded squalid districts. He suggested that, in addition to ball fields and playgrounds, the new parks should also provide a variety of features. Among them were separate outdoor gymnasiums for men and women, swimming and wading pools, running tracks, children's sand courts, and a new type of building, the field house. Based on the precedent of Chicago's settlement houses, the nation's earliest field houses provided "athletic, educational, recreational programs and social services throughout an entire year" with facilities that included public bathing, the earliest branch libraries, indoor gymnasiums and cafeterias.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Dwight Heald Perkins, *Report of the Special Park Commission to the City Council of Chicago on the Subject of a Metropolitan Park System*. Chicago: 1904, 39.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

<sup>15</sup> Julia Sniderman Bachrach, "Playground Movement," *Encyclopedia of Chicago History*

<sup>16</sup> Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks*, Center for American Places, Harrisonburg, VA: 2001, 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

The South Park Commission's first ten innovative neighborhood parks opened in 1905, proving to be an immediate success. In fact, in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt described these new parks as "...one of the most notable civic achievements in any American city."<sup>17</sup> By 1910, the Lincoln and West Park Commissions began creating new parks that followed the prototype, and neighborhood parks were soon also built in cities throughout America and Europe. By the following decade, the neighborhood park prototype had become so accepted in Chicago, that modified versions of the park form began to emerge in middle class neighborhoods where the sites served as attractive and popular urban amenities rather than vehicles of social reform.

After the annexation of townships such as Jefferson Park in 1889, it became apparent that these areas would need a political method for creating parks because they did not lie within the jurisdictions of the South, West, or Lincoln Park Commissions. In response to this need, the State of Illinois approved an act that would allow voters in these neighborhoods to form their own park districts on June 24, 1895. As explained in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (E p. 12), this act established the new park districts as independent municipalities with taxing powers and the ability to "... acquire, lay out, establish, construct and maintain park's and boulevards... and have full power to control, manage and govern the said parks and boulevards and the use thereof."<sup>18</sup>

By 1920, more than a dozen independent park districts had been established in Chicago, and by the mid 1930s, there were a total of 22, including the original three commissions that formed in 1869. Residents of the Jefferson Park community were inspired by the successes of newly formed park districts in other northwest side neighborhoods. Many of the new districts had limited tax financial resources because of the small taxing jurisdictions. Land acquisition and improvements often occurred in stages, and over a long period of time. Despite these obstacles, by 1920, nearby communities had created the Irving, Albany, River, Old Portage, Ravenswood Manor, and Edison park districts and several had already improved their new parks with attractive landscapes and field houses.

Residents of the Jefferson Park neighborhood filed a petition in the County Court on May 24, 1920 requesting the creation of a park district to serve their area. The community election was held on June 22, 1920. At the election 223 community members voted in favor and 29 voted against the formation of the park district. The 5-member commission of the Jefferson Park District held its first meeting on July 8, 1920. Officers were elected, and the fledgling organization set forth to begin creating its first park. (By 1930, the Jefferson Park District owned and operated a total of 6 parks.)

In November of 1920, the commissioners selected a tract of four homes that would become the initial 2.5-acre park.<sup>19</sup> On February 24, 1921, Jefferson Park District's Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance allowing \$64,000 in bonds to be issued. The funds would provide for the acquisition of land and improvements

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<sup>17</sup> As reprinted in South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners For a Period of Fifteen Months from December 1, 1906 to February 29, 1908, inclusive*. Chicago: 1908, 62.

<sup>18</sup> Daniel Breen, ed. *Historical Register of the Twenty-Two Superseded Park Districts, 1941, 4A.*

<sup>19</sup> Jefferson Park District, "Minutes of the Meeting of Jefferson Park District." Nov. 12, 1920, v.1, 27.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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for the park. In March, the Commissioners began the process of purchasing the homes that had been identified. This included a March, 1921 visit to Mrs. Esdohr, who agreed to sell her property for \$8000.

Plans for the park included the extension of Long Avenue between Lawrence and Higgins Avenues. (Long Avenue had previously extended only as far north as Lawrence Avenue). All of the houses on site were demolished except for the Esdohr House. Although it sat in the path of the Long Avenue extension, the commissioners had their architect B. P. Strong create plans for re-using the Esdohr House as the Jefferson Park field house.<sup>20</sup> Another Chicago architect, Arthur Foster, produced the final plans and specifications for the Esdohr House.<sup>21</sup>

Construction of the original park took place in the fall of 1921. This included installing sewers, grading; laying walks, paving Long Avenue, moving and rehabilitating the Esdohr house, and installing a fountain, playground apparatus, tennis courts, and fencing around the tennis courts.<sup>22</sup> The first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in the new field house (Esdohr House) took place on January 13, 1922. The Jefferson Park District soon received many requests by community groups and organizations requesting permission to hold meetings and events in the new field house. These included the Infant Welfare Society, the Golden Rule Club, the boy scouts, and neighborhood improvement groups.

In March of 1922, the commissioners accepted proposals for landscape improvements from several local nurseries, and William A. Beaudig's bid was selected. In addition to plantings, additional benches were installed. In 1923, the commissioners accepted bids for the construction of a wading pool. It is uncertain, however, when the original wading pool was constructed.

The park was well utilized by the community in the mid to late 1920s. In the winter, the lawn was flooded to provide ice skating and a portable skaters' shelter was installed. In summertime, the commissioners provide outdoor concerts and other entertainment.<sup>23</sup> In 1926, the Jefferson Park District began efforts to acquire 4 acres of adjacent property to enlarge the park. This involved purchasing more than a dozen individual parcels between 1926 and late 1929.

In 1929, the Jefferson Park District hired architect Clarence Hatzfeld to create plans for the improvement of the enlarged 7.16-acre park. Clarence Hatzfeld (1873 – 1943) was a Chicago architect who became especially well-known for his numerous and handsome park field house designs. Born in Wisconsin, Hatzfeld's early architectural training was "largely in the office of the late Julius Huber."<sup>24</sup> After practicing in his father's firm, J. Paul Huber and Son Architects in the 1870s, Julius Huber established his own architectural

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid, June 24, 1921, 75.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, August 12, 1921, 81.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, August 26, 1921, 83.

<sup>23</sup> Jefferson Park District Ordinances, "An Ordinance Making an Appropriation for Corporate Purposes of Jefferson Park District, 1924, 51.

<sup>24</sup> Illinois Society of Architects Monthly Bulletin, Oct/Nov, 1943, v. 28, no 4-5, 8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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practice in 1881. Hatzfeld may have begun working in Huber's office in the early 1890s. He was a partner in the firm of Julius Huber and Company for a few years beginning in 1899.<sup>25</sup>

For several years that include the period of 1908 and 1909, Hatzfeld worked as a draftsman in the offices of the Chicago Public Schools Architect's Department.<sup>26</sup> Hatzfeld served under Dwight H. Perkins, who was the official school architect from 1905 to 1910. Perkins was a Prairie School architect who held deep social convictions, and it is likely that at least to some degree his work had an influence on Hatzfeld. In 1910, Hatzfeld formed a partnership with Arthur Knox, who also worked as a Chicago Public School draftsman in 1908 and 1909.<sup>27</sup> Hatzfeld & Knox designed many Prairie and Craftsman style brick bungalows. Several are located in the Villa District, an historic district that has Chicago landmark designation and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They also designed several homes in the Edgewater community of Chicago. Hatzfeld and Knox designed a stately brick field house for Independence Park. Constructed in 1914, this proved to be the first of dozens of park buildings that Hatzfeld went on to design in Chicago.

By the late 1910s, Clarence Hatzfeld dissolved the partnership and began practicing alone. He had many architectural commissions in the 1920s, and early 1930s. Among these were additional residential structures, banks, automobile showrooms and service stations, retail stores, and clubs including the Logan Square Masonic Temple.<sup>28</sup> Hatzfeld also designed more than a dozen field houses for the small independent park commissions in Chicago during this period. He rendered many of these buildings in eclectic Revival styles that were quite popular during this period. Among these were the Spanish Revival style Athletic Park field house; several English Tudor style buildings for parks including Gompers and Indian Boundary (which also has details following a Native American motif) and a number of Georgian Revival style structures, such as the Kilbourn and Jefferson Park field houses.

Clarence Hatzfeld's plans for Jefferson Park oriented the stately brick field house on a diagonal axis fronting the northeast corner of the park. He placed a semi-circular drive in front of the building, and a rock-edged planter surrounded by a circular walk in the center of the triangular landscape area to the northeast of the drive. The Hatzfeld plans also included a wading pool, sandbox, horseshoe court, athletic field, and spaces for boys' and girls' playgrounds. He also designed a second building for the park. Known originally as the Tool House, this structure was built to the west of the playgrounds. Serving as a maintenance facility, it included garage space, workshops, coal storage, a boiler room, and an office. The Esdohr House remained in the park. Used first as a women's club building, the Esdohr House was soon transferred to the Chicago Public Library to allow for its use as the Jefferson Park Sub-Branch Library.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Leroy Blommaert, "Julius Huber, Edgewater Architect: The Man and His Work," v. XIV, n.3, summer, 2003.

<sup>26</sup> Schedule of the Salaries and Proposed Revisions Affecting Employees in the Architect's Department to Take Effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1908 and January 1<sup>st</sup> 1909 (on file at the Chicago Historical Society).

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid* and *American Architect*, May 18, 1910.

<sup>28</sup> There are numerous entries for Hatzfeld in the America Terra Cotta Index on file at the Chicago Landmarks Division of the Department of Planning and Development, City of Chicago.

<sup>29</sup> "Jefferson Park Starts \$112, Civic Center," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, March 16, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

In the early 1930s, several paintings were hung in the Jefferson Park field house. These included four oil portraits of important historical figures. Only one of the four is dated. This is a painting entitled "Columbus Sighting Land." It was presented by Columbus Civic and Social Club and dated 1934. This painting was produced by an artist named L. Caracciolo. A second painting depicts Thomas Jefferson, and the date and artist are unknown. A third entitled "John Marshall of Virginia--Chief Justice US Supreme Court," is also undated and the artist is unknown. The fourth painting is of an unknown figure and was painted by an artist named Franconi.<sup>30</sup>

Three other works of art which once hung in the lobby and office were recently discovered in a closet in the field house. One of these depicting a landscape is possibly a pastel and was produced by an artist named E. Bittner. Another is an oil painting of a Viking Ship entitled "Leif Erikson Year 1000." Produced by artist Emil Bjorn, this painting was donated by Olaf E. Ray, February 11, 1931. The third may be a painting or a print. It depicts "The Flagship of Columbus" and is the work of artist Hans Hornick.<sup>31</sup> The Chicago Park District has recently contracted the services of the Chicago Conservation Center. The four portraits are now under conservation and the consultant is evaluating the three that were found in the closet.

Another feature that was installed in the park, in the 1930s, was an Austrian World War I cannon. It was "Dedicated to Those of Jefferson Park District Who Gave Their Lives in the World War."<sup>32</sup> Installed in the triangle lawn area at the northeast corner of the park, the cannon may have included a small bronze plaque that still exists in the park. This plaque, dedicated by the Altrui Club is located near the field house. It is uncertain whether this plaque was originally associated with the cannon and later moved, or if it marked a second World War I memorial that also no longer remains in the park.

By the early 1930s, there were 22 separate park districts operating simultaneously in Chicago, including the Jefferson Park District. The Great Depression rendered most, if not all of these independent agencies financially insolvent. To gain access to federal funding through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, voters approved the Park Consolidation Act of 1934, through which all 22 agencies were unified into the Chicago Park District. Between 1935 and 1941, the newly consolidated Chicago Park District received more than \$82 million in federal funding through the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and PWA (Project Works Administration). State and city funds increased this total to more than \$100 million.<sup>33</sup> Using these funds, the park district made numerous improvements throughout the system, which then included 130 parks with a total of 83 field houses and 50 swimming pools.

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<sup>30</sup> Joan McCabe, Survey of Chicago Park District works of Art, study as part of a Master's Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago. David Sokol, advisor, 1989 (check date).

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Sloan

<sup>33</sup> Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks*, Center for American Places, Harrisonburg, VA: 2001. 24.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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The park district conducted some work in Jefferson Park in the late 1930s; however, extensive improvements were not necessary considering that the expansion of the site and construction of the field house and other amenities had occurred only four years prior to consolidation. The WPA-funded work included converting the horseshoe court to a volleyball court, installing baseball backstops and tennis courts, upgrading all of the park's plumbing and adding new drinking fountains, rehabilitating the lawns, planting shrubs and flowers, making improvements to the Tool House and converting the basement of the field house to a crafts workshop.

The Chicago Park District offered an extensive arts and crafts program during this period. This included archery, basketry, glass blowing, homemade games, kites, model boats, marble craft, ornamental iron craft, grotesque heads, homemade musical instruments, woodcraft, tin can craft, radio, and photography. The newly formed park district divided Chicago into six sections providing a regional craft center in each one. Jefferson Park was considered the headquarters for the crafts program for Section 5, offering craft programming to the entire Northwest Side of Chicago. Crafts classes were offered in the Jefferson Park field house until 1945, when the sub-branch of the Chicago Public Library moved out of the Esdohr House and the entire building became a crafts shop.

In addition to the extensive arts and crafts program, Jefferson Park featured numerous activities in the 1940s and 1950s. These included sports played outdoors such as football, soccer, archery, tennis, volleyball, softball, baseball, tumbling, and archery. Indoor activities included basketball, drama, dancing, airplane club, camera club, public speaking club, scout troops, checkers and other games, women's chorus, orchestra, home nursing and First Aid classes.

Since 1945, the Esdohr House has been devoted to arts and crafts. In 1955, the park district installed lapidary equipment on the second floor. Several years later, the lapidary shop was moved downstairs and expanded. The building continued to be used as a crafts shop until 1990s. (The building is not being used at the present time.)

In the mid 1960s, the park district expanded Jefferson Park's athletic field utilizing the area that had previously been used for boys' and girls' playgrounds. At the same time, the original sand court and wading pool were demolished and a new playground was built in their location. The Chicago Park District also installed a new playground west of the field house. The only other substantial change to Jefferson Park was the construction of an outdoor swimming pool and an associated brick building in 1977.

Over the years, Jefferson Park has continuously provided a variety of athletic, recreational, social, and educational programs and services to the community. Although it has adapted to modern needs, the park retains a good deal of historic fabric. Today, Jefferson Park offers many of the same kinds of programs as were historically offered in the park such as arts and crafts, tumbling, volleyball and orchestra. Jefferson Park remains a vital part of the surrounding community which shares its name.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 15

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 16

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 17

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 18

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is bounded on the north by the south curb-line of W. Higgins Ave., on the south by the north curb-line of W. Lawrence Ave., on the east by the west curb-line of N. Long Ave, and on the west by the east curb-line of N. Linder Ave.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the plot of land historically associated with the park during its period significance.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Additional Documentation Page 19

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

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**Photographs**

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of Field House looking southwest  
Photo 1, Feature No. 2

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
Close up view of field house looking southwest  
Photo 2, Feature No. 2

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
Interior view of auditorium looking west  
Photo 3, Feature No. 2

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of Esdohr House looking southwest  
Photo 4, Feature No. 1

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of Esdohr House looking south  
Photo 5, Feature No. 1

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Additional Documentation Page 20

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**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of war memorial looking southwest  
Photo 6, Feature No. 15

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of sunken planter looking southeast  
Photo 7, Feature No. 13

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of tennis courts looking southwest  
Photo 8, Feature No. 3

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of pool building looking southwest  
Photo 9, Feature No. 10

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of tool looking southeast  
Photo 10, Feature No. 6

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Additional Documentation Page 21

---

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Cook County**

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of landscape looking west  
Photo 11

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park  
Cook County, IL  
Julia Bachrach  
October 24, 2005  
Chicago Park District  
View of landscape looking northwest  
Photo 12

June 1, 2006



City of Chicago  
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Department of Planning  
and Development

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Tracey A. Sculle  
Survey & National Register Coordinator  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62702

**Re: Chicago nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for**

- **Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Ave.,**
- **Eugene Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway, and**
- **Grand Crossing Park, 7655 S. Ingleside**

Dear Ms. Sculle:

This is in response to your letters of April 18, 2006, to Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Commission on Chicago Landmarks asking for the Commission's comments on the nominations of the properties referenced above to the National Register of Historic Places. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the City of Chicago is given the opportunity to comment on local nominations to the National Register prior to being considered by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

At its regular meeting of June 1, 2006, the Commission voted unanimously to support the National Register listings for all three nominations. The Commission's resolution is attached.

Please contact Terry Tatum of my staff at 312-744-9147 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Goeken  
Deputy Commissioner  
Landmarks Division

Originated by:

Terry Tatum  
Director of Research  
Landmarks Division

encl.

cc: Alderman Patrick J. Leval, 45<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Margaret Laurino, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Todd Stroger, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District  
Arnold Randall, Chicago Park District  
Lori T. Healey, DPD  
Judy Minor-Jackson, DPD  
Wendy W. Williams, DPD  
Danita Childers, DPD  
Val Zillig, DPD  
Lynette Wilson, Ref. # 06-00720846



Resolution  
by the  
Commission on Chicago Landmarks  
on the  
Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places  
for

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Ave.,**

**Eugene Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway,**

and

**Grand Crossing Park, 7655 S. Ingleside**

June 1, 2006

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks finds that:

- Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park, Eugene Field Park, and Grand Crossing Park are all significant for their histories as Chicago neighborhood parks and exemplify the importance of such parks in the history of Chicago neighborhoods; and
- All three parks are locally significant and eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C for Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture; and
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park and Eugene Field Park are also eligible for listing to the National Register under Criterion A for Social History; and
- Grand Crossing Park is also eligible for listing to the National Register under Criterion C for Landscape Architecture.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks that it hereby supports the listing of all three nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.*



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago  
Brian Goeken, Landmarks Division, Department of Planning and  
Development

**FROM:** Tracey A. Sculle, Survey and National Register Coordinator *TAS*

**DATE:** April 17, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Opinion on Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park in Chicago,  
Illinois

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park located at 4822 North Long Avenue (mailing address) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, entitled "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District." The park is bounded on the north by West Higgins, on the south by West Lawrence, on the east by North Long Street and the west by North Linder Avenue. It is locally significant and meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the following areas of significance: Entertainment/ Recreation, Social History, and Architecture. The period of significance for Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park is from 1921 to 1956, the fifty-year cutoff for National Register significance. The park was form in 1921 and expanded in 1930. The improvements were designed by Clarence Hatzfeld, a prominent Chicago architect.

This park retains sufficient integrity to convey both its historic and architectural importance and will make a fine addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 8/07/06 THROUGH  
8/11/06

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL,  
Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,

Santa Anita Park,  
285 W. Huntington Dr.,  
Arcadia, 06000672,

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE, 8/03/06

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,

Eugene Field Park,  
5100 N. Ridgeway Ave.,  
Chicago, 06000677,

LISTED, 8/08/06

(Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,

First Congregational Church of Western Springs,  
1106 Chestnut St.,  
Western Springs, 06000673,

LISTED, 8/08/06

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,

Grand Crossing Park,  
7655 S. Ingleside Ave.,  
Chicago, 06000678,

LISTED, 8/08/06

(Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,

Jefferson Park,  
4822 N. Long Ave.,  
Chicago, 06000679,

LISTED, 8/08/06

(Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY,